

Got stuff you don't need? Put it in the attic

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

The Family Support Center oversees the operation of several programs offering airmen and their families assistance. One such program is the Airman's Attic.

According to Master Sgt. Claudia Bostic, 20th Mission Support Squadron NCO in charge of family readiness, the Airman's Attic's purpose is to provide free household and clothing items to military families who may need assistance for various reasons.

"There may be some airmen just getting on their feet. Not having to buy some household items can really help their budgeting," said Bostic. "Also, as military people, there are things we can't take with us when we PCS. Lots of people make very big donations before moving. It's a way to give back to the military community."

The attic is open to E-4s and below Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month to E-6s and below from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is also an all-ranks day once a year when anyone can receive free items. The attic is located in Building 1141, Highway 441 and Blue Jay Street, across from Shaw's Hospital Gate.

Virgil Lockhart, Airman's Attic volunteer, believes the facility's location helps in the number of donations to the attic.

"If the Airman's Attic was on base, we would miss a lot of civilian donations," said Lockhart.

Volunteers and any equipment needed to operate the Airman's Attic are provided by the FSC. Even though the facility is only open a few times a month, the attic's five volunteers work one or two hours every day.

"If we didn't empty the donation bins every day, they would overflow," said Lockhart.

Although the facility gives away items other people don't want, all the items donated should be clean and serviceable, according to Bostic. Donators are asked not to give broken or dirty items. The shelves of the Airman's Attic are stocked with items that come in ready for customers. However, if there are items in need of cleaning or repair, they are given to facilities that have the resources and equipment to do so. Also, due to the vast number of donations and limited storage space, the Airman's Attic gives to Crosswell Children's Home, YWCA, the Sumter battered women's shelter and other organizations, according to Lockhart.

Among the reasons to have a facility like the Airman's Attic, Bostic believes one of the most important reasons is to help airmen better budget their money by not having to spend it on certain items. Lockhart says the importance of the facility should be evident to anyone who has been by the Airman's Attic on a Thursday evening.

"There are at least 55 people here every Thursday and each person usually has at least three bags when they leave," said Lockhart.



Photos by Adriene M. Dicks

Ana Cardona (left), wife of Airman 1st Class Ysidoro Muniz, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Wendy (right), wife of Tech. Sgt. Joseph Coin, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron, sort clothes for the Airman's Attic.

Donations to the Airman's Attic that could not be used in the local area or are given in high numbers, such as winter coats and stuffed animals, have also been sent to West Virginia and a Native American reservation in North Dakota with assistance from a local church.

The Airman's Attic is seeking more volunteers. Lockhart says although current helpers come in every day for about an hour, others wanting to support this program will be asked to work whenever possible.

If interested in working at the Airman's Attic, call the FSC at **895-1252**.

20th LRS get personnel, cargo ready to go

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs
Public Affairs

At Shaw, the 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron is tasked with preparing and moving sufficient personnel and equipment to support military operations halfway around the world — and back.

That can mean thousands of airmen and hundreds of tons of cargo to go anywhere. And when the mission is complete, it's the "loggie's" job to get everyone and everything back to base, according to Airman 1st Class Glen Martin, 20th LRS air terminal operations specialist.

But, their job actually begins months before a unit gets orders to load up and deploy or redeploy, said Staff Sgt. Joe Allen, 20th LRS readiness instructor. It all starts with training, he said.

There's much more to the logistics of deployment than stuffing a duffel bag or toting a toolbox. Allen teaches airmen how to pack the necessary equipment and prepare vehicles for air transport. For example, hazardous materials must be identified, marked and loaded with consideration for easy access. All items must be weighed and secured on a pallet.

Allen's lessons include various tie-down sys-

tems on cargo aircraft and how to use them correctly.

Much of the focus is on aircraft safety, Martin said. He said vehicles are not to leak fluids in the aircraft, and cargo pallets must be built and secured so as not to impede loading and unloading.

According to Allen, the students (equipment users) will build the pallets to bring equipment home from the deployed location. But, loading up for redeployment is different than zipping shut an over-stuffed suitcase and throwing it in a car.

Each unit is responsible for its luggage and gear. They need people who know how to pack so it's safe to load aboard an aircraft and pass an inspection.

Everything is scrutinized before it goes on the aircraft. "If it isn't airworthy, it doesn't get loaded," Martin said. Anything that could jeopardize the flight or cargo has to be repacked or repaired.

Common problems are frayed cargo straps, warped pallets and fluid leaks, according to Allen. He said the time to identify these and other discrepancies is before they show up on the flightline and cause a situation referred to as frustrated cargo. The time required to make corrections can impact the flight schedule and may also lead to frustrated passengers anxious to go home.

While much of the burden is on trained members of the unit, logistics specialists, like Allen and Martin, go to the operations site to assist in equipment redeployment. While there, they serve as cargo inspectors. They said inspecting makes them especially adept at teaching augmentees how to do the job right during pre-deployment training.

In addition, Martin also leads troops with special skills when they are operating around the aircraft. For example, he directs forklift operators, tow-vehicle drivers and bomb-loading tractor operators. And, when he isn't directing other drivers, the airman first class could be pushing pallets or operating an elevated, motorized aircraft loader.

The flatbed cargo hauler, called a 60K, is able to lift 30 tons of material 35 feet to the deck of a 747.

When military or civilian cargo aircraft land, Allen and his troops are there to meet them and begin the process of unloading. The staff sergeant explained all material is removed from the planes and taken to a marshaling yard. That's where unit deployment monitors claim their equipment and arrange for its delivery.

Meanwhile, the loggies clean out the aircraft and stow all the tie-downs in preparation for the next unit that gets orders to pack up and get out of town.

Are extracurricular activities helpful or harmful to children? Some say

After the bell rings, the learning continues

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Staff writer

From ballet to baseball to band, children always seem to be involved in one extracurricular activity or the other. This can sometimes make for a hectic lifestyle for both parent and child. So, what are the real physical and social benefits of these programs? Is all the "running around" worth it?

Children involved in extracurricular activities learn how to cooperate and work with others, which is a huge part of adult life, said Helen Lee, Shaw Heights Elementary School principal.

Deborah MacQueen, director of youth programs at Shaw agrees. Extracurricular activities help children further their skills and learn social interaction in a safe environment, she said.

The Search Institute, an organization that conducts practical research benefiting children and youth, identified 40 assets children need for healthy development. One category was constructive use of time. The institute concluded children need to spend time in youth,

religious/community and creative activities. They should have only two or fewer nights a week at home "with nothing special to do."

Children should be given choices, but none of those choices should be "nothing," Lee said.

So, should children be allowed to participate in anything and everything they want?

Children need to be given the opportunity to find where their talents lie and develop those talents, Lee said.

However, too many extracurricular activities can interfere with academics.

Parents need to keep a close eye on their children. If they notice grades are dropping, or they're getting in trouble, it may be an indication they're doing too much, MacQueen said. Children need down time to relax and release energy built up during school hours.

How involved should parents be?

Parents can sometimes become too involved in their child's activities.

"Our responsibility as parents is to gradually push the bird out of the nest," said Lee. Parents need to help children become independent so they can function well as an adult.

Children should never be forced to participate in an extracurricular activity. If a child is not interested, he may act out in a negative way, said MacQueen.

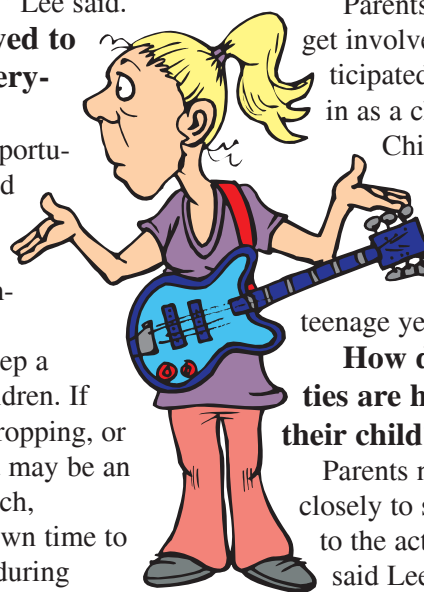
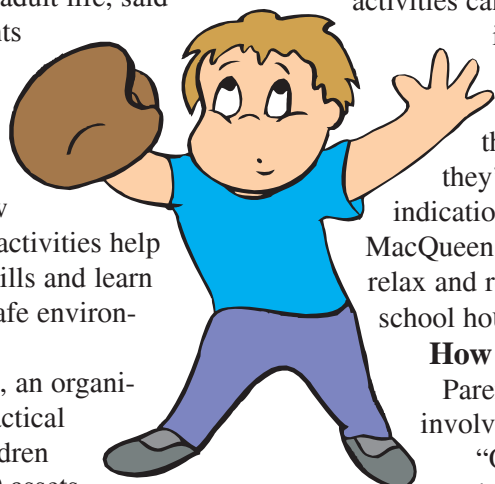
Parents sometimes push children to get involved in the activities they participated in or wanted to participate in as a child. This may be harmful.

Children may grow to resent parents who didn't let them participate in what they wanted, and it may cause more rebellion during teenage years, said Lee.

How do parents know activities are helping, not harming their child?

Parents need to observe children closely to see how they are responding to the activities they're involved in, said Lee. Teachers can also be a great source of information because they spend a lot of time with the children and may have learned through experience how to recognize a problem.

Above all, children need to know their parents are there to listen and talk to, Lee said. "Take a child's strengths and draw on them," she said. "They need positive feedback. A child will live up to our expectations."



No AGE limit: EMS flight vital to mission

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Staff writer

Every squadron and flight at Shaw provides a service vital to the base and Air Force mission. The Aerospace Ground Equipment flight at Shaw proves there is no air power without ground power.

The mission of 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron AGE flight is to support the flying mission with maintenance equipment. This equipment allows aircraft systems to be worked on without turning on the engines, said Master Sgt. Todd Curtis, 20th EMS AGE Repair Section Chief.

The equipment AGE maintains, services and inspects is essential because it would be nearly impossible for the flightline to perform any maintenance or troubleshooting on the aircraft without it, Curtis said. It can be impossible to work on a jet while it is running. The equipment AGE uses saves on jet wear and tear and fuel costs.

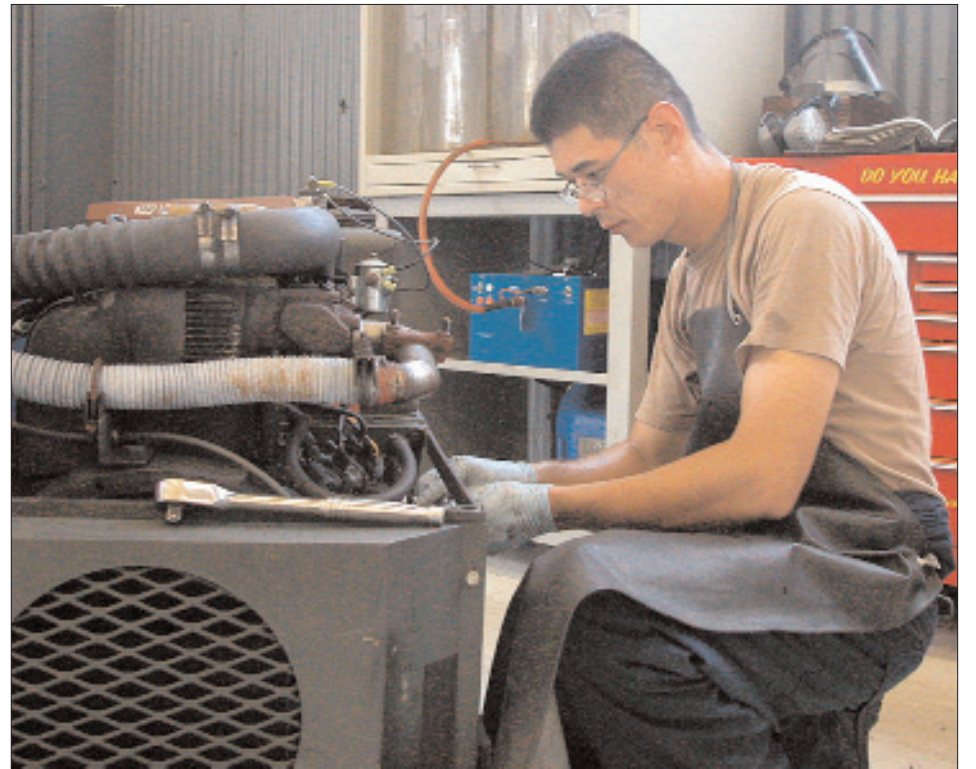
"We support the flightline with all kinds of equipment," said Curtis. Some examples include generators, bomb lifts and hydraulic lift stands.

AGE personnel must complete five months of technical training before coming to a base shop, Curtis said. Troops are taught basic electronics, as well as diesel and turbine engine maintenance. They also receive certification in heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Shaw currently has 76 AGE members who maintain \$20.2 million worth of ground equipment, said Master Sgt. Patrick Lausier, 20th EMS AGE Inspection Section chief.

There are two AGE crews that take care of three sections: periodic inspection, maintenance and servicing, Curtis said. The inspection team ensures equipment meets Air Force standards. The maintenance team repairs damaged parts and the servicing team is in charge of equipment up-keep. AGE personnel rotate throughout the sections. Staff is on duty 24 hours a day, including weekends.

"There really is no air power without ground power," Lausier said. AGE plays an important role in getting and keeping the F-16s at Shaw in the air through proper maintenance, service and inspection.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Above, Staff Sgt. James Kline, 20th EMS AGE mechanic, repairs a leaking hydrostatic pump on a bomb lift at the AGE shop on base Aug. 20.



Left, Kline reinstalls the centering mechanism on the bomb lift using a ratchet and socket. The servicing section of AGE has three shifts, keeping staff on duty 24 hours a day, including weekends.

Just the fax survey

The Shaw Spirit Mission: To build and maintain support of the 20th Fighter Wing, its mission and its people through effective communication with Shaw members, the media and the community.

1. Are you satisfied with *The Shaw Spirit* overall?

YES NO

2. Is *The Shaw Spirit* meeting its mission?

YES NO

3. Does *The Shaw Spirit* highlight the 20th Fighter Wing's mission effectively?

YES NO

4. Does *The Shaw Spirit* help

you know and understand command policy?

YES NO

5. Do you get information you can use or are interested in?

YES NO

6. Was the information in this week's *The Shaw Spirit* presented in a way that was easy to read?

YES NO

7. Did the front page of this week's *The Shaw Spirit* grab your attention and prompt you to pick it up, and why?

YES NO

8. What type of information do you look for in *The Shaw Spirit*? (for example, local news, command information, sports, etc.)

Did you find enough of it in this week's *The Shaw Spirit*?

YES NO

9. If you could edit *The Shaw Spirit* for a week, would you change anything?

YES NO

If yes, what changes would you make?

10. Did you notice any errors in this week's *The Shaw Spirit* (for

example, misspellings, errors in fact, incorrect names, ranks, etc.)?

YES NO

If yes, what?

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Duty phone: _____

Surveys may be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office, in the 20th Fighter Wing Headquarters Building, room 107, sent by fax to **895-2017** or mailed to *The Shaw Spirit*, 517 Lance Ave., Suite 107, Shaw AFB, S.C. 29152-5041.

Submission guidelines for *The Shaw Spirit*

People often question how the base newspaper works; how to submit articles, what stories the staff covers and the deadlines for submission to *The Shaw Spirit* office.

Here is a look at the guidelines the staff uses each week that may be helpful to a person looking to see their story idea in print.

Submission

The best way to submit something to *The Shaw Spirit* is to

send it via e-mail to any member of *The Shaw Spirit* staff. Addresses

can be found on page 2 of the paper each week. This enables the staff to download the information without having to retype the entire article.

People may also fax stories to the office at **895-2017** or drop them off to the 20th

Fighter Wing Headquarters Building, 517 Lance Ave., Suite 107. Articles can also be sent through the base distribution by addressing them to 20 FW/PA.

People should always call *The Shaw Spirit* office at **895-2018** to verify the article was received. All submitted articles are subject to editing.

The only exception is for the submission of items for the classified advertising section of the paper. These can be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office, faxed directly to the publisher at **(803) 432-7609** or e-mailed directly to the publisher at skaress@ci-camden.com.

Story ideas

The Shaw Spirit staff gets words of most significant events. But we don't hear about every event on base, such as sporting events or squadron-level functions. With this in mind, it's important for people to bring future events to the attention of the staff.

Letting members of the staff know of functions as soon as they are announced allows time to plan for coverage and allot space in upcoming issues. This can be done by using the same channels used to submit a story or simply calling the newspaper office at **895-2018**.

In addition to time-sensitive events, the paper staff is always looking to feature people in the newspaper with unique hobbies or situations.

Deadlines

Adhering to deadlines is one of the most important factors in getting a person's story published.

The contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are planned weeks in advance and available space is limited.

The deadline for submission of an article or announcement is the close of business Thursday the week prior to publication, with a few exceptions.

For month-long celebrations or events, such as Black History Month or Native American

Heritage Month, it is beneficial to both those submitting stories and the staff to have story ideas well in advance to ensure coverage throughout the month. It is *The Shaw*



Spirit's policy to attempt to provide equal coverage to all groups.

Classified advertisements must be dropped off to *The Shaw Spirit* office by Tuesday at 2 p.m. for that week's publication. Space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and items must be resubmitted on a weekly basis.

Awards

With about 5,600 active-duty people and nearly 800 civilians assigned to Shaw, it's impossible to recognize every outstanding performer and award winner with articles in *The Shaw Spirit*.

The staff's policy is to write articles for individuals and units winning command-level awards or above. The exception to this policy are stories written on people winning awards being given for the first time or being received by a person whose accomplishment is so unique a story is warranted.

Changes of command

The Shaw Spirit policy is to write change-of-command stories at the wing and group level. For new wing, group and squadron commanders, the staff will publish the time and location of the ceremony and the names and ranks of the incoming and outgoing commanders.

Customer service

The Shaw Spirit staff is dedicated to serving the Shaw community and appreciates inputs. The policy and deadlines for the submission of editorials is updated and distributed semi-annually.

Any questions concerning the newspaper policy can be directed to Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon, Internal Information chief, or Staff Sgt. Lee Watts, editor, at **895-2018**.

